

to get there, but that is important. But we also need to change the course in Iraq, and that didn't happen, and so now we have this.

We have all seen and heard reports that our intelligence community has concluded that al-Qaida's strength has grown to its 9/11 levels, and the statement of the Secretary of Homeland Security that he has a gut feeling we are at greater risk of being attacked this summer by terrorists. In spite of all this, we have just seen an example of obstructionism that has slowed down and prevented the Senate from consideration of this bill today.

The latest obstruction would delay important investments. This Homeland Security bill does lots of things. We just finished the immigration debate. This is not as good for border security as the immigration bill would have been—I don't expect we will do that debate today—but it does do some good things. This bill hires 3,000 more Border Patrol agents and provides 4,000 more detention beds. When someone is picked up, they will have a place to put them. This provides \$400 million for port security grants. This bill provides \$1.83 billion for State and local first responders. And one other example is that this bill provides monies for the purchase and installation of explosive detection equipment at airports.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in an effort to use our time effectively, while the cloture motion on Homeland Security ripens, I am asking now unanimous consent to proceed to the education reconciliation bill, a bipartisan bill that will make college education more affordable for hundreds of thousands of students.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I do intend to object, I believe this body ought to stay on the Defense authorization bill. We have just seen a procedure in the last 24 hours which has been a colossal waste of time.

The time to have a showdown with the President was either on the funding request, which was 2 months ago, or in September. There was no way there would have been sufficient votes to have 60 votes or 67 votes to have anything meaningful done. And speaking for myself, having been in this body for a substantial period of time, I think what has happened in the past 24 hours has been an indignity. This is reputed to be the world's—

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SPECTER. I do object. And I would also—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SPECTER. The leader speaks at great length about if another Member

seeks to speak, he ought to be accorded that privilege.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, he is going to have all day to talk. He has the right to object, and he did that. We listened to his statement.

We believe the American people were entitled to have 2 days, at least 2 days of debate on the Levin-Reed amendment to change the course in Iraq. He may disagree. I would bet, with all due respect to my friend, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, that the people of Pennsylvania want a change of course in the intractable war in which we find ourselves in Iraq.

Mr. SPECTER. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. REID. So the Senator can talk about a waste of time. But I move to proceed to H.R. 2669, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHN-SON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Akaka	Feingold	Murray
Baucus	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Inouye	Pryor
Bingaman	Kennedy	Reed
Boxer	Kerry	Reid
Brown	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Byrd	Kohl	Salazar
Cantwell	Landrieu	Sanders
Cardin	Lautenberg	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Clinton	Lieberman	Webb
Conrad	Lincoln	Whitehouse
Dodd	McCaskill	Wyden
Dorgan	Menendez	
Durbin	Mikulski	

NAYS—48

Alexander	DeMint	Martinez
Allard	Dole	McCain
Barrasso	Domenici	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Roberts
Brownback	Graham	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burr	Gregg	Smith
Chambliss	Hagel	Snowe
Coburn	Hatch	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Coleman	Inhofe	Sununu
Collins	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Kyl	Vitter
Cornyn	Lott	Voinovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner

NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Johnson	Obama
-------	---------	-------

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the measure.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2669) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I understand it, before the Senate now is the reconciliation provisions dealing with higher education. There are 20 hours that will be available, 10 hours on either side; am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. I know the Senator from Pennsylvania wishes to speak and also the Senator from West Virginia. After they have finished, I will proceed to make an opening statement.

How much time would the Senator like?

Mr. SPECTER. I would like 15 minutes, Mr. President. I understand Senator BYRD has a short statement, so I will defer to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the very distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Senator.

THE HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my surprise that there is actually an objection to taking up the fiscal year 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill today. The bill, which was reported by the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 29-0, provides \$37.6 billion to help secure the homeland. That includes funds to secure our borders, funds to hire 3,000 more border patrol agents, and funds to provide 4,000 more detention beds. It includes funds for the men and women of the Coast Guard to guard our ports and seaways. It includes funds to protect 2 million citizens who travel by air every day, including money to inspect air cargo on passenger aircraft. There are funds to implement the SAFE Port Act. We include funds to equip and train our police, fire, and emergency medical personnel to deal with any disaster.

Incredibly, the President has threatened to veto the Homeland Security Appropriations bill because it exceeds his request. Today, we have heard an objection to even debating the bill from a Member on the President's side of the aisle.

Just last week, the Secretary of Homeland Security publicly said that it was his "gut feeling" that the United States faces an increased threat of attack this summer. Shouldn't that wake us up to the need to pass this bill?